

CLAIMS

1. A pneumatic lift device comprising:
 - a lift unit including:
 - a substantially rectangular base having four sides;
 - a rectangular lift platform having four sides and being approximately the same size as the rectangular base;
 - a hinge mechanism interconnecting the base and the lift platform; wherein the hinge mechanism includes four foldable side panels hingedly connected to the four sides of the base and lift platform;
 - an expandable bladder between the base and lift platform; and,
 - an activatable air supply apparatus connectable to the expandable bladder of the lift unit that supplies pressurized air to the expandable bladder when connected to the bladder and activated, wherein the air bladder expands and lifts the platform from the base.
2. The pneumatic lift device of claim 1 wherein the activatable air supply apparatus includes an air release for releasing air from an expanded air bladder, wherein the four foldable side panels fold as the lift platform lowers to the base.
3. The pneumatic lift device of claim 1 wherein the four foldable side panels fold inwardly as the lift platform lowers to the base.

4. The pneumatic lift device of claim 1 wherein the four foldable side panels fold outwardly as the lift platform lowers to the base.
5. The pneumatic lift device of claim 1 wherein four sides of the base and lift platform have a center segment and the four foldable side panels hingedly connect to at least the center segment of the four sides of the base and lift platform.
6. The pneumatic lift device of claim 2 wherein the four sides of the base and lift platform have edges with a center segment and wherein two opposed side panels hingedly connect to opposed edges of the base and lift platform along the entire edges, and the remaining two opposed side panels hingedly connect to opposed edges of the base and lift platform at the center segment of the edges.
7. The pneumatic lift device of claim 2 wherein the foldable side panels each have a central hinge interconnecting two side panel sections.
8. The pneumatic lift device of claim 1 wherein a second lift device is stacked on the lift platform of the lift device to increase the lift height.
9. The lift device of claim 1 wherein the activatable air supply apparatus has an air hose with a connector and one of the lift platform and base of the lift unit have an air connector connectable with the connector of

the air hose of the air supply apparatus.

10. The lift device of claim 9 wherein the air connector of the lift unit connects to the expandable air bladder.
11. The lift device of claim 10 wherein the lift unit includes an air relief connected to the expandable air bladder to release air from an expanded air bladder.
12. The lift device of claim 3 wherein the four foldable side panels have means of initiating inward folding of the side panels as the lift platform lowers to the base.
13. The pneumatic lift device of claim 12 wherein the means for initiating the inward folding of the side panels comprises a central hinge with each panel having an upper panel section and a lower panel section interconnected by the hinge wherein the hinge has articulation limiting means for limiting the unfolding of the panel sections.
14. The pneumatic lift device of claim 12 wherein the means for initiating the inward folding of the side panels comprises means for connecting the foldable panel sections to the expandable bladder wherein the bladder is elastic and contracts when deflated drawing the foldable panels inwardly on contraction.

15. The pneumatic lift device of claim 9 wherein the lift unit is combined with a carriage having a frame with dolly wheels.
16. The lift device of claim 3 wherein the lift unit is configured for installation in an automobile trunk and the activatable air supply apparatus has an electric air pump with an electrical power supply adapted to be connected to an electrical system of an automobile.